



# City of Seattle

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**Seattle Public Utilities**  
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## **New South Transfer Station Site Cleanup South Kenyon Street Bus Yard Site** *April 2009*

### **Background**

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) acquired the bus yard property on South Kenyon Street in 2007 in order to rebuild the new South Transfer Station there. A new recycling, re-use and hazardous waste facility will be built on the current South Transfer Station site across the street.

In June 2008, SPU took environmental soil and groundwater samples at the bus yard while doing work to determine what type of building foundations would be required for the new transfer station. Those samples showed contamination at the property.

### **Site Conditions**

The samples SPU took showed that cement kiln dust (CKD) was used as a fill material on the western portion of the site. In July and October of 2008, SPU completed additional soil and groundwater tests to determine the extent of this material and to investigate the rest of the site thoroughly.

Seattle Public Utilities entered the Voluntary Cleanup Program with the Department of Ecology. Now SPU has completed an environmental investigation of the soil and groundwater conditions on-site.

SPU discovered three primary areas of soil contamination. The western portion of the site previously was an auto wrecking yard, and the soil below that area contains CKD and petroleum contamination. Additional petroleum contamination was documented near the diesel fueling area near the center of the site. A third area with petroleum contamination was reported near one of the vehicle maintenance buildings. The primary chemicals that exceed state cleanup levels in soil at the property are petroleum, benzene, arsenic, and lead. Except for oil-stained areas on the ground from parked vehicles and surface spills near the maintenance shops, people on or near the site do not have direct contact with the contaminated soil reported in the RI.

No buried garbage was found on the site, confirming historical research which shows that this property was not part of the South Park Landfill.

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SPU installed a network of monitoring wells to evaluate the groundwater quality beneath the site. Results indicate that the groundwater in certain areas of the property is contaminated with petroleum, arsenic, and lead.

### **Cleanup Plans**

The results of SPU's environmental investigation are documented in a Remedial Investigation Report which is to be submitted to Ecology. SPU has also completed a Focused Feasibility Study where it evaluated five cleanup options. Based on the results of the feasibility study, SPU has prepared a proposed Cleanup Action Plan. SPU will submit the investigation results, cleanup options study and proposed Cleanup Action Plan to Ecology during the next two weeks. The documents will be online by April 27 at [www.seattle.gov/util/About\\_SPU/Garbage\\_System/Plans/SolidWasteFacilityUpdate/SouthRecyclingDisposalStation/index.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/util/About_SPU/Garbage_System/Plans/SolidWasteFacilityUpdate/SouthRecyclingDisposalStation/index.htm).

Seattle Public Utilities proposes to remove the CKD and as much petroleum-contaminated soil as practicable from the site. Under the proposal, contaminated soil, including CKD, would be dug up, taken to a permitted facility, and clean soil brought in to replace it. Groundwater at the perimeter would be monitored after the cleanup to ensure contamination exceeding cleanup levels is not leaving the site. Site preparation work would include demolition of existing buildings on the site and relocation of a storm drain that is below the western portion of the site.

After completing cleanup, SPU will submit a report to Ecology documenting the work. Groundwater below the site will continue to be monitored for at least two years. Following cleanup, the new transfer station will be constructed on the site.

### **Schedule**

The schedule for cleanup and development is below and may change over time:

- Winter 2009 - demolition of existing buildings, cleanup of contamination
- October 2010 - cleanup completed, cleanup report submitted to Ecology
- 2010 - design of new South Transfer Station completed
- 2010-2012 - construction of new South Transfer Station

In addition to providing a reliable water supply to more than 1.3 million customers in the Seattle metropolitan area, SPU provides essential sewer, drainage, solid waste and engineering services that safeguard public health, maintain the city's infrastructure and protect, conserve and enhance the region's environmental resources.

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